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15 January 1965

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# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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South Vietnam: The Viet Cong are giving increased attention to densely populated areas.

Fourteen district capitals south of Saigon were shelled by Communist mortar fire during the past week. There has also been a marked increase of harassing actions and terrorism in the special military district around Saigon.

A substantial Viet Cong force still remains east of Saigon in an area which includes Binh Gia, scene of the week-long battle which began in late December. In order to guard against a new outbreak of hostilities, the government has diverted to the area at least three marine battalions to augment the two ranger battalions which moved in during the battle from priority provinces west and north of Saigon.

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East Africa - Congo: East African leaders are renewing their efforts to find a political solution for the Congo.

The government chiefs of Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda have been meeting in Uganda since 13 January, and are scheduled to be joined by representatives of the Congolese rebels, Sudan, Zambia, and the Organization of African Unity.

Since October, East African countries have been providing the rebels with transit rights and training facilities. The purpose of the present meeting is to formulate a common strategy against Tshombé and to plan tighter security measures.

The Ugandans are especially alarmed at the threat posed by the influx of Congolese refugees and the proximity of Tshombé's mercenaries. Tanzania's President Nyerere fears that Tshombé may in due course support the Portuguese and South Africans against African nationalist forces.

In a conversation with the US ambassador in Dar es Salaam on 12 January, Nyerere expressed his conviction that only a political reconciliation could stop the fighting and the rival military build-ups. He indicated that he thought this was impossible under Tshombé.

According to Nyerere, the East Africans hope to determine whether Gbenye and other rebel leaders would be willing to serve under President Kasavubu, and if they are, to approach Kasavubu before the OAU meeting next month. The East Africans would presumably hope to get US support for such efforts, and would at least exert pressure on the US to decrease its backing of Tshombé. Their campaign seems likely to founder, however, on Kasavubu's satisfaction with Tshombé and his policies, including the use of mercenaries.

United Nations: Prospects remain poor for breaking the deadlock over the UN financing issue before the General Assembly reconvenes on Monday.

The USSR continues to insist that in return for its promise to contribute an unspecified amount to the UN, its back debts for the Congo and Middle East operations be cancelled and that Article 19 of the Charter be suspended to allow the assembly to proceed with its normal business.

Moscow would have to contribute over \$20 million to avoid losing its assembly vote under the provisions of Article 19, but there is no indication it intends to donate anything approaching this figure. Indeed, the Soviets are threatening to withdraw their offer to make a token payment if they do not get their way.

Barring a sudden shift in the Soviet position, the secretary general may simply appeal for voluntary contributions when the General Assembly reconvenes. Unless sufficient funds are received from the delinquents prior to the end of general debate, now set for 22 January, the assembly will be hard put on how to proceed.

The options would appear to be either a showdown on the question of depriving the USSR, France, and other members of their voting rights, or still another adjournment--one which might last until the next assembly session in September.

(continued)

There is widespread sentiment for avoiding a confrontation, particularly among the Asians and Africans, and there probably will be numerous abstentions if the matter comes to a vote. On the other hand, it is uncertain that those who are unwilling to take a stand would accept another adjournment, although there appears to be growing sentiment for such a move.

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Dominican Republic: A move by Triumvirate President Reid Cabral to strengthen his position by dismissing the powerful national police chief could undermine the government's stability.

Reid took a preliminary step against the notoriously corrupt Brigadier General Belisario Peguero on Wednesday when he placed the 10,000-man national police force under armed forces command. Reid has indicated that the actual dismissal order will be issued sometime in the next few days.

In acting against Peguero, Reid is supported by Brigadier General Wessin y Wessin, who controls the country's armored and artillery units. This combination should be sufficient to ensure Peguero's ouster.

The move against Peguero may not be accomplished, however, without resistance from Peguero's supporters in the police and armed forces, as well as from certain elements of the public that are opposed to giving more power to the military establishment.

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Colombia: New signs of political instability have generated a growing sense of uneasiness in Colombia.

Some influential elements in the government have been alarmed to the point of advocating the proclamation of a state of siege. Their purpose is to provide security forces with additional powers to deal with a threatened general strike next week. There is also considerable concern about the activities of the National Liberation Army, <sup>ELN</sup> probably Cuban-supported, which began operations on 7 January by attacking a town in north central Colombia.

Beyond these matters, feuding among members of the government coalition and the continuing financial crisis have contributed to the atmosphere of malaise.

As tensions mount, criticism of President Valencia can be expected to increase proportionately.

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